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limited, and a caution is given against depending too much on manuscripts, the writers of which were often very careless, and committed gross mistakes. This is especially the case with funeral MSS., on which no dependence whatever should be placed in reference to the present object. An opinion is expressed that all these MSS. are of a late age, and that the famous one at Turin, of which Dr. Lepsius has published a copy, is not earlier than the second century before Christ. It is shewn, too, that it was transcribed from a hieratic original, or from a hieroglyphic one which had been copied from a hieratic one. At the end of this part suggestions are given as to the aid which may be derived from the Indo-Germanic languages in determining the powers of Egyptian characters in some particular instances. The whole of this part is preparatory to the third, in which the principles laid down here will be applied to the practical determination of the powers of the letters.

Mr. Mallet presented his Translation of the Report of the Institute of France upon M. Arnollet's System of Atmospheric Railways.

February 23, 1846.

GEORGE PETRIE, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Thomas Butler, Esq., John T. Evans, M.D., Richard R. Madden, M.D., Robert C. Williams, M.D., and Henry W. Massy, Esq., were elected Members of the Academy.

The Secretary of the Council having read to the Academy the following Resolution of the Council of the 16th of February,

"That the Council are of opinion, that it is not expedient that the same person should be elected to the office of President more than five times in succession :"

It was Resolved,—That the Academy do concur in the preceding opinion expressed by the Council.

Mr. Robert Mallet completed the reading of his paper on the "Mechanics of Earthquakes."

The author pointed out the correspondence of his theory with the actual velocity of earthquake-shocks, so far as these have been observed, and by numerous quotations shewed how completely his theory accounts for the complex phenomena often detailed, and many of which have been heretofore inexplicable.

He shewed that an exact knowledge of the velocity of earthquake-waves passing under the bed of the ocean, would enable us to ascertain, with considerable certainty, what the geological formations are, which, constituting this bed, form more than two-thirds the whole surface of our globe, which hitherto has been a geological blank. He also indicated the means of experimentally determining the velocity of waves of elastic compression in the crust of the earth, and proposed the establishment of geological observatories, both separate and in connexion with the magnetic observatories scattered over the face of the globe, for the purpose of registering and recording with suitable instruments, all the motions of the water of earthquake-waves which occur; and he has shewn reason to believe that these (though so small as to be inappreciable without the aid of proper instruments) are much more frequent than has been hitherto supposed; in fact, Arago has actually observed an earthquake-shock at his magnetic observatory at Paris, which was imperceptible there without the aid of instruments, and the origin of which lay in the south of France.

Dr. Lloyd took this occasion to mention that he had frequently observed certain abnormal movements of the magnets in the Dublin Observatory, which, like that noticed by M. Arago, and referred to by Mr. Mallet, he was inclined to